



Dkt. No. 032915/0118

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michael D. ANDERSON et al
Title: FLEXIBLE TRUCK BED TIE-DOWN
SYSTEM
Appl. No.: 09/874,979
Filing Date: June 7, 2001
Examiner: Stephen T. Gordon
Art Unit: 3612

#12/20
P. Jones
4/3/03

AMENDMENT & REPLY

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed on November 20, 2002, please reconsider the above referenced application as follows:

In the Specification:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please replace the following paragraphs with the following rewritten version of the same paragraphs, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached Version With Markings to Show Changes Made.

[0041] An important feature of the invention is that the tracks are outside of the passenger compartment (in the Figure 1 embodiment the tracks are behind the passenger compartment). This allows the storage of larger, heavier loads. Another important feature of the invention is that the tracks 141 to 148 are integral with the body of truck 100 such that the exterior contours of the tracks do not extend appreciably beyond the contour of adjacent portions of the body (e.g., not more than 1/8, 1/4, 1/2, or 3/4 inch beyond the contour of adjacent portions of the body).

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